•••REMARKS•••

The Official Action of October 26, 2007 has been thoroughly studied. Accordingly, the following remarks are believed to be sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance.

The present supplemental amendment updates the claims as preliminarily amended on January 23, 2006 (in applicants' Supplemental Preliminary Amendment).

By the present amendment claim 4 has been canceled and rewritten as new claims 25 and 26. Claims 25 and 26 have been drafted in view of the Examiner's comments found on pages 3-4 on the Office Action and are believed to overcome the outstanding rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Entry on the changes to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 10, 11 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Under this rejection the Examiner has inquired the order of addition of components (G) and (H) in claim 4.

In response to this rejection of claim 4, claim 4 has been canceled and rewritten as new claims 25 and 26. Claims 25 and 26 have been drafted in view of the Examiner's comments found on pages 3-4 on the Office Action and are believed to overcome the outstanding rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Also under the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph the Examiner has taken the position that the recitation of "lower alkyl" is not defined in the claims.

It is noted that claim 1 recites, in part:

> ...(E) a di(meth)acrylate compound of alkylene glycol whose alkylene group is substituted by a *lower alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms*...

This is commensurate with the disclosure at page 5, lines 17-22 which reads:

> Di(meth)acrylate compound of alkylene glycol, whose alkylene group is substituted by a lower alkyl group, for use as Component (e) includes di(meth)acrylates of alkylene glycol, where the alkylene group of alkylene glycol having 4-12 carbon atoms, such as 1,4-butanediol, 1, 6-hexanediol, 1,8-octanediol, 1,9-nanoediol, etc. is mono- or di-substituted with a *lower alkyl group having 1-5 carbon atoms*...

It is submitted that the specification and independent claim define "lower alkyl" as having 1-5 carbon atoms.

The undersigned notes that a search on the phrase "lower alkyl group" on the USPTO database of issued patents results in 21,770 "hits", which strongly indicates that the term "lower alkyl group," especially as described by applicants, is not indefinite.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdrawing the rejection of claims 10, 11 and 22 which depend from independent claim 1.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Japanese reference no. 2003-105320 to Wantanabe et al.

For the reasons set forth below it is submitted that all of the pending claims are patentable over Wantanabe et al. and therefore, the outstanding rejection of the claims should properly be withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner has relied upon Watanabe et al. as setting:

...forth liquid compositions for making gaskets used in HDD application via methods using an automated x-y-z coating robot. Said composition comprises a liquid carbonate modified polyurethane acrylate, a diluent (acrylic monomers of formulas 1 and/or 2), and a photoinitiator. Said polyurethane acrylate is obtained by the reaction of a polycarbonate polyol having a molecular weight of 1K to 3K, a diisocyanate compound, which can be aliphatic, alicyclic and/or aromatic, a polyhydric alcohol having (meth)acrylic groups, *wherein formula 2 reads on applicant's (E) component*.

The Examiner's position that "*formula 2* [of Watanabe et al.] *reads on applicant's (E) component*" is in error.

Attached for the Examiner's review are two pages of a machine translation of Watanabe et al. (see Exhibit A).

As can be seen, Component (A) of Watanabe et al. corresponds to applicants' components (A), (B), (C) and (F).

Component (B) of Watanabe et al. corresponds to applicants' component (D).

Component (C) of Watanabe et al. corresponds to applicants' component (G).

In addition, applicants' Component (H)is used in the Example of Watanabe et al.

The Examiner's position that "*formula 2* [of Watanabe et al.] *reads on applicant's (E) component*" is in error.

The alkylene glycole diacrylate in formula 2 of Watanabe et al. corresponds to Component (D) of the present invention.

In the present invention a di(meth)acrylate compound of alkylene glycol whose alkylene group is substituted by a lower alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms is used as component (E).

In contrast, the alkylene group of the alkylene glycol diacrylate of formula 2 of Watanabe et al. is not substituted with a lower alkyl group.

It is accordingly submitted that Watanabe et al. fails to teach or suggest applicants' claimed Component (E).

Further it is noted that on page 6, lines 1-4 applicants have disclosed that the omission of Component (E) results in the lowering of tensile strength and compression characteristics.

Thus, following the teachings of Watanabe et al. and excluding applicants' Component (E) would result in a UV-curable liquid polyurethane which would be inferior to applicants' UV-curable liquid polyurethane. The use of applicants' Component (E) thus leads to results that are unexpected over Watanabe et al.

Based upon the above distinctions between the prior art relied upon by the Examiner and the present invention, and the overall teachings of prior art, properly considered as a whole, it is

respectfully submitted that the Examiner cannot rely upon the prior art as required under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipating applicants' claimed invention.

Moreover, the Examiner cannot properly rely upon the prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of applicants' claimed invention.

It is, therefore, submitted that any reliance upon prior art would be improper inasmuch as the prior art does not remotely anticipate, teach, suggest or render obvious the present invention.

It is submitted that the claims, as now amended, and the discussion contained herein clearly show that the claimed invention is novel and neither anticipated nor obvious over the teachings of the prior art and the outstanding rejection of the claims should hence be withdrawn.

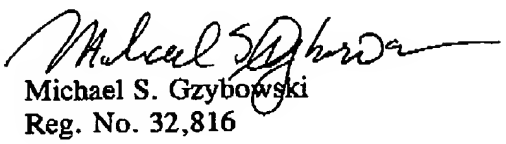
Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of the claims and an early allowance of the claims is believed to be in order.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Gzybowski
Reg. No. 32,816

BUTZEL LONG
350 South Main Street
Suite 300
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
(734) 995-3110

199637.1